

Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing automatic status information pertaining to the location and delivery state of a plurality of delivery vehicles incorporates the use of an intelligent controller onboard the delivery vehicle. The onboard intelligent controller
5 utilizes data received from a GPS receiver and a vehicle condition sensor to generate automatic status information that is transmitted by a wireless communication system to a delivery state database. The delivery state database is accessed by a central dispatch center, and the data records contained therein are utilized to provide visual indicators to a dispatcher regarding the identity, location and delivery state of each vehicle within a fleet
10 of vehicles. The system employs knowledge of allowable states and state transitions to effect appropriate status reporting. Conceptual segmentation of delivery operations into separable state, and separation of vehicle status into allowable states, having allowable transitions between states, can be used for error detection and correction of automatically determined status.